Outstanding Telephone arrears

1835. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an amount of more than rupees 1066 crore was outstanding against the telephone subscribers as on 1st July, 2000 and more than 88 percent of outstanding arrears are against the private subscribers;

(b) if so, what are the latest arrears of telephone dues, category-wise; and

(c) what concrete efforts are being made by the department to recover huge outstanding arrears from private subscribers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The outstanding over one year old on 1.7.2000 in the Department of Telecom Services was Rs. 1066.09 crores, of which slightly more than 88% was against private subscribers. The category-wise arrears was on 1.7.2001 for Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, which was formed by corporatising the Department of Telecom Services are as follows:

(Figure in crores of rupees)

State Govt.	Central Govt.	Defence	Private	Total
148	29	12	1773	1962

(c) The various steps taken to recover the telephone revenue arrears are as follows:

1. Telephonic reminders are issued to the defaulting subscribers to clear their dues, failing which their telephones are disconnected.
2. Telephone Revenue Inspectors and field staff are deputed to visit the defaulting subscribers to pursue the clearing of dues,

failing which other telephones of the defaulting subscribers are also disconnected.

3. Incentive is given to staff for ensuring early recovery of outstanding dues.

4. If the above steps do not bring results, recovery suits are field against the defaulters wherever feasible.

5. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited sets annual targets for liquidation of outstanding for its field units and periodically monitors realisation against the targets fixed. Liquidation Boards in each Unit/Circle of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited are functioning to liquidate old outstanding dues.

6. As per recent guidelines framed by BSNL, Cricles have been authorised to utilise the services of the Police, Revenue and other Departments of the State Government, whenever necessary and pay a commission of up to 1.5% of the amount recovered.

Telephone facility in villages of Gujarat

1836. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Gram Panchayats provided with the public phone facility in Gujarat, district-wise;

(b) the number of Gram Panchayats proposed to be provided with such facility by March, 2001;

(c) by when, the said facility is likely to be provided to the remaining Gram Panchayats in the State; and

(d) the steps proposed/being taken to reduce the fault rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Requisite information is enclosed as Statement (*See* below).

(c) The private Basic Telephone Service Licensee in Gujarat has undertaken to provide Public Telephones facility in the remaining Gram Panchayats by 31st December, 2002.